

“In my department, we run a team of System Monitoring Engineers who look after the Transmission Network and its Assets. We use many different remote devices to monitor the network performance and retrieve information about the health of our plant for condition monitoring from 33kV to 400kV.

ScottishPower was looking for a communications solution for a substation in Glasgow. The substation is split across two sites with a main public road and a commuter railway line between them. The WAN network was installed as part of a wider comms solution which would allow SP to connect devices. However, we had installed condition monitoring DGA devices on the transformers which are positioned on the other site which has no WAN connection. No communication cabling was available between the sites and the cost and disruption would be too great to install a fiber comms. So other solutions were sought including Wi-Fi which would have been feasible but our company policy does not allow this to be used.

We looked into the iBridge devices and discovered that by using existing tie copper cables which had other services on them, we could achieve comms. The iBridge devices were setup temporarily to convince ourselves that this would work. When the couplers were hooked over the cabling, the comms LED immediately came on and confirmed that we could communicate so after a permanent install, we now have remote communications to the DGA devices so we can condition monitor our assets from the office environment.”

-KEITH BLACK SCOTTISHPOWER TRANSMISSION OPERATIONS

